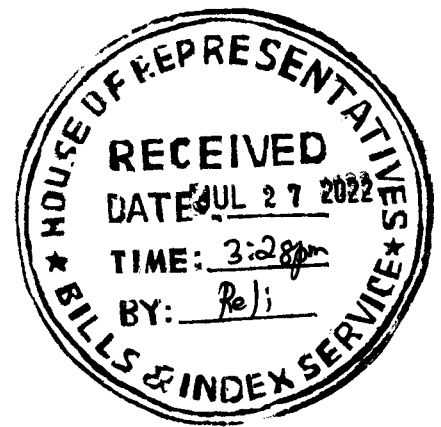


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. B. No. 2564



Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A
HOSPITAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF
ITS RESOURCES IN DELIVERING HEALTH SERVICES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Quality healthcare is characterized by availability and access to good health facilities; adequate human resources; and affordable services and medicine. In reality, however, these building blocks of quality healthcare are always inadequate, especially in a developing country like the Philippines where the population is continuously increasing while wherewithal remains limited.

In the National Health Objectives 2017-2022 published by the Department of Health, the department noted the gaps between the needed versus the actual public health facilities in the country. The significant gaps are in the Barangay Health Stations and Rural Health Units, the first responders and healthcare providers in the communities. These gaps have resulted in bottlenecks and choking of public hospitals, especially the district, provincial and regional hospitals.

Bed sharing, patients waiting in the lobbies and hallways, and stock or conference rooms being used as temporary holding areas for patients have been a perennial sight. The traffic of patients has also become unmanageable at times.

The coronavirus pandemic further exposed the depressing condition of our public health facilities especially when its capacities were stretched beyond limits, to the point that car parks have been used as triage, waiting, and admission areas.

Considering these realities, it is therefore imperative that our public health facilities maximize the use of their existing resources, starting with their land. This bill provides for the preparation of an effective land use and site development plan that public hospitals nationwide will implement to optimize the utilization of resources, address facility deficiency and foresee future infrastructure requirements to deliver quality healthcare services while anticipating imminent public health emergencies.

Site development planning for hospitals aims to contribute toward the creation of a proper healthcare environment. It should show improvements in the hospital site including the location of existing and proposed buildings, the arrangement of circulation elements, and the utilization of open areas. It will also aid hospital administration in making informed decisions regarding health facilities management. The site development plan shall be regarded as a flexible framework that allows modifications dictated by changing conditions.

However, at certain times, complying with the prescribed standards can be hard to achieve due to the lack of funding for the needed physical resources. The hospital site development plan can thus serve as a "*wishlist*" for future development projects of the hospital. It can also serve as the incentive for public hospitals to be given priority in accessing health facilities enhancement funding from the national government.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RALPH G. RECTO

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Hospital Site*
2 *Development Plan Act*".

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure optimum
4 utilization of the land resources of all public hospitals to anticipate the future needs
5 and expansion of hospitals relative to patient influx and construction of needed
6 infrastructure and physical facility requirements which will contribute to more efficient
7 delivery of quality healthcare services and conform with disaster risk reduction
8 management in public hospitals.

9 SEC. 3. *Preparation and Implementation of the Hospital Site Development Plan.*
10 – A committee composed of the public hospital officials, with the assistance of the
11 Bureau of Health Facilities of the Department of Health (DOH), the
12 District/City/Municipal Engineering Office of the Department of Public Works and
13 Highways (DPWH), and other government agencies concerned, shall be required to
14 prepare and implement a Hospital Site Development Plan designed to improve and
15 optimally utilize the resources of their respective public hospitals.

16 The Hospital Site Development Plan shall be submitted by the Chief of Hospital
17 to the DOH within two (2) years after the approval of this Act: *Provided, That the Plan*

1 shall be updated periodically as the need arises: *Provided, further,* That the DOH shall
2 be informed of any changes made thereof: *Provided, finally,* That the Plan shall be
3 reviewed by the committee ten (10) years after its approval to ensure that it remains
4 relevant and in consonance with changing conditions and realities.

5 Priority in the approval of infrastructure projects under the Health Facilities
6 Enhancement Program (HFEP) shall be given to hospitals that have prepared and
7 submitted a Hospital Site Development Plan to the DOH.

8 *SEC. 4. Hospital Site Development Plan.* – Each public hospital shall endeavor
9 to provide quality health care in a facility that is well-planned and constructed. The
10 infrastructure and physical facility requirements must also comply with prevailing
11 disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures.

12 The site development plan must be flexible enough to allow modifications
13 according to the hospital's prevailing and future needs: *Provided,* That modifications
14 shall adhere as much as possible to the basic pattern of development.

15 The Hospital Site Development Plan shall include the following:

- 16 a) Public hospital planning framework, principles, and processes, including
17 master development plans;
- 18 b) Detailed geographical description and survey of the site occupied by the
19 hospital;
- 20 c) Inventory of all existing buildings, facilities, and other infrastructure
21 within the compound or area occupied by the public hospital;
- 22 d) Cadastral survey of land occupied by the hospital, including detailed
23 geographical descriptions of land disputes, and natural and man-made
24 hazards for climate change issues;
- 25 e) Recommendations for use of all idle and available land inside the hospital
26 compound including a feasibility study on the construction of additional
27 hospital buildings relative to population growth and the estimated
28 increase in inpatient influx;
- 29 f) Hospital building and facility condition assessment report which will
30 include actual defects, damages, and other structural issues;

1 replacement, repairs, retrofitting, improvements and maintenance
2 needed;

3 g) Design and estimated cost of construction, operation, and maintenance
4 of other infrastructure needs of the medical institution; and

5 e. Financial plan, which may include among others, feasibility studies,
6 sources of funding, income, loans, and public-private partnerships.

7 SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to effectively carry out the
8 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
10 approval of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DPWH, shall promulgate the
11 rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

12 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
13 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall
14 continue to be in full force and effect.

15 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
16 other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with the
17 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
20 circulation.

Approved,